

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

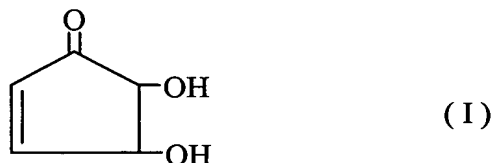
Listing of Claims:

1-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method for enhancing production of growth factor selected from the group consisting of

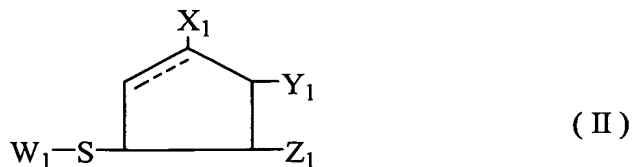
hepatocyte growth factor, nerve growth factor, epidermal growth factor, milk-derived growth factor, and insulin-like growth factor, the method comprising

administering a composition containing, as an active ingredient, a compound selected from the group consisting of 4,5-dihydroxy-2-cyclopenten-1-one of formula (I):



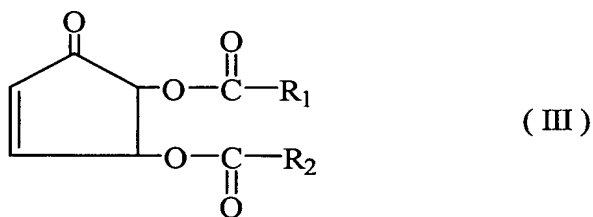
4-hydroxy-2-cyclopenten-1-one;

a compound of formula (II):



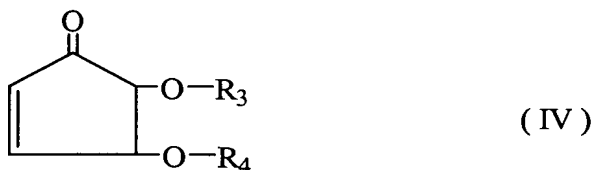
wherein a bond in the five-membered ring represented by a broken line means that the five-membered ring may be either a cyclopentene ring having a double bond or a saturated cyclopentane ring; in the case of a cyclopentene ring,  $X_1$  is OH,  $Y_1$  is =O and  $Z_1$  is H; on the other hand, in the case of a cyclopentane ring,  $X_1$  is =O,  $Y_1$  is OH and  $Z_1$  is OH;  $W_1$  is a residue in which a SH group is removed from cysteine or a peptide containing cysteine;

a compound of formula (III):



wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  may be the same or different from each other, and are hydrogen, or an aliphatic, aromatic or aromatic aliphatic group;

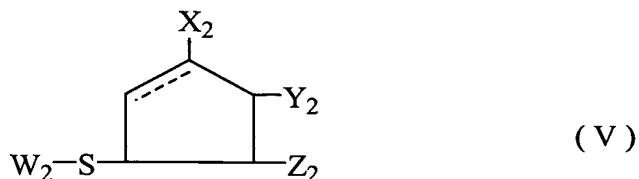
a compound of formula (IV):



wherein  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  may be the same or different from each other, and are hydrogen, or an aliphatic, aromatic or aromatic

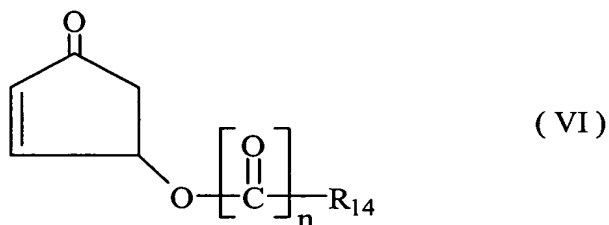
aliphatic group, provided that  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  are not simultaneously H;

a compound of formula (V)

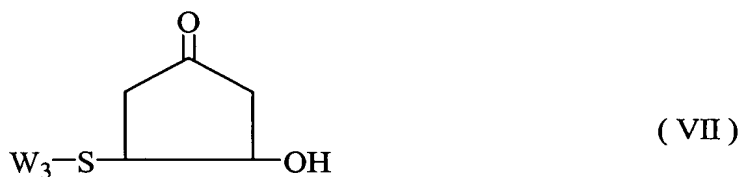


wherein a bond in the five-membered ring represented by a broken line means that the five-membered ring may be either a cyclopentene ring having a double bond or a saturated cyclopentane ring; in the case of a cyclopentene ring,  $X_2$  is  $OR_5$ ,  $Y_2$  is  $=O$  and  $Z_2$  is H; on the other hand, in the case of a cyclopentane ring,  $X_2$  is  $=O$ ,  $Y_2$  is  $OR_6$  and  $Z_2$  is  $OR_7$ ;  $R_5$  is  $R_8$  or  $-(CO)-R_9$ ;  $R_6$  is H,  $R_{10}$  or  $-(CO)-R_{11}$ ; and  $R_8$  is H,  $R_{12}$  or  $-(CO)-R_{13}$  (wherein  $R_8$ ,  $R_9$ ,  $R_{10}$ ,  $R_{11}$ ,  $R_{12}$  and  $R_{13}$  may be the same or different from each other, and are an aliphatic, aromatic or aromatic aliphatic group, and  $R_9$ ,  $R_{11}$  and  $R_{13}$  may be H), provided that  $R_6$  and  $R_7$  are not simultaneously H;  $W_2$  is a residue in which a SH group is removed from a cysteine or a peptide containing cysteine;

a compound of formula (VI):



wherein  $R_{14}$  is an aliphatic, aromatic or aromatic aliphatic group, and  $n$  is 0 or 1, provided that if  $n$  is 0,  $R_{14}$  is not H;  
a compound of formula (VII):



wherein  $W_3$  is a residue in which a SH group is removed from cysteine or a peptide containing cysteine;

4-(9-adeninyl)-2-cyclopenten-1-one; and

4-(9-guaninyl)-2-cyclopenten-1-one,

to a person who is suffering from a condition selected from the group consisting of hepatitis, cirrhosis, cholestasis in liver, chronic nephritis, wound, senile dementia, Alzheimer's disease, peripheral neuropathy, a cerebrovascular disease, apex of brain, a degenerative disease ~~associated with~~ resulting from head injury, anesthetic intoxication, growth impairment, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, osteoporosis, and renal insufficiency,

wherein the amount of said active ingredient is above 10  $\mu\text{g/kg/day}$  and less than 200  $\text{mg/kg/day}$ .

Appln. No. 09/890,875  
Amd. dated March 5, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of January 2, 2004

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) The method according to  
claim 6, wherein the composition is a food or a drink.